

the advertised beads existed in 1999 - please note that the web page indicates that it was revised on 01/05/03, and the beads could have been added on that date; further, the provisional patent application was filed on 27 June 2000, within one year of 27 June 1999 and all dates thereafter in 1999). Thus, even without the attached declaration, this promotional information cannot properly be considered to be prior art.

The attached Declaration dated 29 January 2003 attests to the commercial success of the invention and copying by others of the claimed invention, both indications of non-obviousness of the invention. Applicant requests that the patent examiner consider this evidence of non-obviousness when considering the patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) (see, e.g., MPEP Sections 716.01(a) through 716.06).

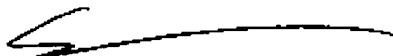
Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is hereby respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Applicant respectfully petitions the Commissioner for any extension of time necessary to render this paper timely.

Please charge any additional fees due or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0694.

Respectfully submitted,

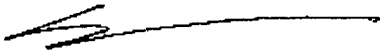


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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper (6 pages total) is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and

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Signature

Seth M. Nehrbass
(Typed or printed name of person signing)

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